

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Actions of July 19, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-40 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter if the indefiniteness is properly cured.

The Specification

The applicants have amended the specification to cure the defects noted by the Examiner. These amendments also include providing antecedent basis in the specification for the term "mid-axis" previously found only in the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The claims have been carefully amended to resolve the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. With these amendments, it is submitted that all claims now comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Drawings

Regarding the two gas ballast systems shown in Fig. 2, it should be noted that these two systems are not mutually exclusive. Although normally one system or the other can perform this function satisfactorily, it is contemplated that both systems can be implemented concurrently in the same vacuum pump. Accordingly, the applicants have retained Fig. 2 in its current form.

As suggested by the Examiner, the applicants are enclosing a new Fig. 6, in which the pump is equipped with only the second gas ballast system.

The three elements of Fig. 5 have now been labeled as Fig. 5a, Fig. 5b, and Fig. 5c.

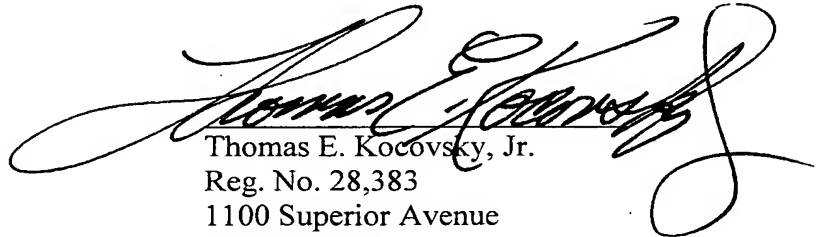
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.", is written over the printed name and address.

Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.
Reg. No. 28,383
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582